

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet feeder in which plate-shaped members and sheet materials in a state of being alternately stacked are removed out one by one, comprising:

at least one sucker which adheres to the plate-shaped members and sheet materials due to negative pressure by being brought into contact with the plate-shaped members and sheet materials;

a suction fan which operates at a position close to a sheet material disposed at the uppermost position and sucks in air in the vicinity of the surface of the sheet material and adheres the sheet material; and

an elevator which moves said sucker and said suction fan in directions of approaching and moving apart from at least one of the stacked plate-shaped members and the sheet materials, to thereby raise at least one of a plate-shaped member and a sheet material, which is adhered to said sucker,

wherein when the sheet material is disposed at the uppermost position, said suction fan is operated in a state of being moved close to the sheet material so as to adhere the sheet material while the sheet material is pressed by said sucker, and thereafter, negative pressure is applied to said sucker at a predetermined timing to allow said sucker to adhere to the sheet material.

2. A sheet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said suction fan is provided so as to face one end of the sheet material.

3. A sheet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said suction fan is provided in the proximity of at least one of the suckers.